

# The Mail Ego

By Terrence O'Flaherty

"Help! Save me from movies on TV like 'The Spiral Road' with Rock Hudson, Burt Reynolds and Gina Rowlands (1962) in color" writes Blanche Sack. "That was one of the worst movies of all time. One funny scene was the drunken dinner but after that the story went downhill fast. The allegory of man alone in nature, mixed down in the mud, was unbelievable. I don't see how anyone could believe the story. Please save us from movies like that."

is personal. When you feel the temptation to watch an old movie is stronger than you can resist, run around the block twice or take a cold shower. Call a friend who has had the same problem and managed to overcome it. Repeat 24 times: "Every day and every way I am growing stronger and stronger without Rock Hudson." Dial VAT 69, a great comfort in extreme cases. Or, best of all, relax and enjoy it. If you can't find a good movie, there's nothing better than a really bad movie. It's those in-between ones that cause the trouble.

You can only save yourself. Blanche! Salvation is about the only thing left in life that

"We know what Lucille

Ball is doing—just turn on the set and there she is—but what's happened to Desi Arnaz?"

For the past three years he has been fishing and worrying about his horse breeding farm and he's returning to TV in the fall as the producer of an NBC series titled "The Mothers-in-Law" starring Eve Arden and Kaye Ballard. The series won't fang mother-in-lawhood but will attempt to show that the kids are better off left alone.

"I'm 12. How old is Elvis Presley? My mother says she remembers him when he made his first movie and that he's older than she is. I can't believe it could be true because mother is 38 and Elvis looks young enough to be her son."

Presley is a doddering 32. His first movie, "Love Me Tender," was made in 1956 when he was a tender 21 years old. You only see Presley with his make-up on. You

see your mother with hers off. And then, having a 12-year-old to look after is enough to age anyone faster. Just the thought of it has aged me six months!

"Which one of the Smothers Brothers has the ulcer?"

Both of them. But the one that belongs to Tom, the relaxed, easy-going brother, is bigger. However, he was divorced last week so it should be smaller by now.

"Where do the television stars go for their vacations? They're always complaining of overwork so I guess they just go hide away somewhere under a rock and rest. Where will Lee Majors spend his vacation this year?"

Most stars talk of the pressures of performing for television, and what do they do for a vacation? Make a movie or tour in a play! When you enjoy what you're doing—and all actors do—a change

of role is more refreshing than taking a trip to Tahiti. Majors of "The Big Valley" is a good example. He made a movie soon to be released titled "Will Penny."

"What's Julie Christie doing now? She started out so big but I haven't heard anything about her since 'Dr. Zhivago.'"

Don't be impatient. "Dr. Zhivago" came out only last year! Since then she has finished "Far from the Madding Crowd" in England. Her next film will be shot entirely in San Francisco starting in April with George C. Scott.

"If Gunsmoke is indeed saved, I wonder who was responsible for the rescue" writes Mrs. Ruth Roberts. "Surely it wasn't the fans because we didn't have time to get the letters written."

The change of heart at CBS is said to be the result of pressure and dismay expressed by the managers of the

## Readings Scheduled For 'Hatful of Rain'

Open readings for the Kentwood Players forthcoming production of "A Hatful of Rain" will be held Monday and Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Readings are scheduled at the Westchester Playhouse, 8301 S. Hindry Ave., in Westchester. The playhouse is the permanent home of the Kentwood Players.

"A Hatful of Rain" by Michael V. Gazzo will open May 13 for a scheduled five-week run. Ed Cotter will direct the play.

The play is the story of a young husband's involuntary addiction to narcotics and of his problem in trying to break the habit and how it affects his wife, brother, and other members of his family.

There are roles for four men in their middle 20s, two men in their 30s, a man in his 50s, and two women in their middle 20s.

affiliated stations who were generally delighted with the show's ratings. Whatever the cause, the reinstatement will cause the cancellation of one of the most inane shows on the air—"Gilligan's Island." Inasmuch as Gunsmoke has always had a mature audience—and "Gilligan's Island" is definitely a kid show—a blow has been struck for the adult viewer, a big turnout for CBS entertainment programs.

## Zippy Credit Checks Begun

The new Bullock's store here can approve credit purchases in 10 seconds for any of the 750,000 Bullock's charge customers, a store official reported today.

An automated floor authorization system that joins a computer center at the firm's downtown Los Angeles building lets the clerk check credit authorization directly from the sales floor, according to David Blair, Bullock's credit manager.

"This new system was installed three and a half months ago, and by now is well shaken down," Blair said. He added that it meant faster customer service, control of bad debt losses, some cost cutting, and more consistent credit authorization judgments.

## Display Opens

Tide pool life along the California coast is being featured in a special display at Marineland of the Pacific this month. Some 50 different kinds of animals, including a tiny, 2-inch baby octopus, are included in the display.

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